

Application No.: 10/564,985
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Reply to Office Action dated December 28, 2007
March 26, 2008

REMARKS

By this amendment, the specification has been editorially amended and claim 1 has been amended in the application. Currently, claim 1 is pending in the application.

Claim 1 was objected to because of the following informalities: the Examiner stated that the preamble of the claim should read, "A process for producing a phosphorus heterocyclic dimer according to formula 5 ..." to clarify the scope of invention. By this amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended as the Examiner suggested. It is respectfully submitted that this objection has been overcome by this amendment and it should be withdrawn.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Zhang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,169,953) in view of Ohashi et al. (Heterocycles 2000, Vol. 52, No. 2, Pages 905-910).

This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to claim 1 and the remarks below.

The present invention relates to a process for producing an optically active phosphorus heterocyclic dimer (see page 1, lines 5-6 of the specification).

Application No.: 10/564,985
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 March 26, 2008

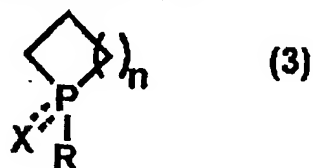
The present invention provides a process for producing an optically active phosphorus heterocyclic dimer including reacting, in the presence of n-butyl lithium, primary phosphine represented by formula (1):



(wherein R represents a linear or a branched alkyl group having 2 to 20 carbon atoms or a cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 20 carbon atoms) with a compound represented by formula (2):



(wherein Y represents a halogen atom or a leaving group selected from --OTs, --OTf, and --OMs, and n represents a number of 3 to 6); reacting the product with boron trihydride, oxygen, or sulfur to obtain a phosphorus heterocyclic compound represented by formula (3):

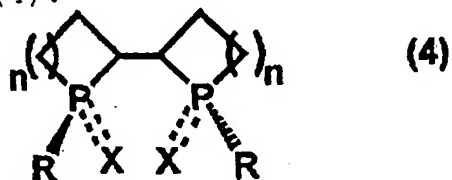


(wherein R represents a linear or a branched alkyl group having 2 to 20 carbon atoms or a cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 20 carbon atoms, n equals 1, X represents a boron trihydride group, an oxygen atom, or a sulfur atom, and == represents a single bond when X is a boron trihydride group or a double bond when X is an

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 Reply to Office Action dated December 28, 2007
 March 26, 2008

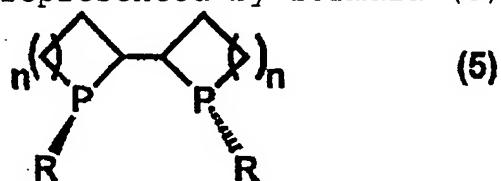
oxygen atom or sulfur atom); dimerizing the resultant compound to produce a phosphorus heterocyclic dimer represented by formula

(4):



(wherein R represents a linear or a branched alkyl group having 2 to 20 carbon atoms or a cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 20 carbon atoms, n equals 1, X represents a boron trihydride group, an oxygen atom, or a sulfur atom); and then removing oxygen, sulfur, or borane from the resultant phosphorus heterocyclic dimer to obtain an optically active phosphorus heterocyclic dimer

represented by formula (5):



(wherein R represents a linear or a branched alkyl group having 2 to 20 carbon atoms or a cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 20 carbon atoms, n equals 1) (see page 4, line 3 - page 5, line 16 of the specification).

An example of the compound represented by formula (2) includes 1,3-dichloropropane (see page 8, lines 15-16 of the specification).

Application No.: 10/564,985
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
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March 26, 2008

By this amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "said step of reacting the primary phosphine represented by formula (1) with the compound represented by formula (2) includes using 1,3-dichloropropane as the compound represented by formula (2)". This feature is not shown or suggested by Zhang et al. and Ohashi et al.

Zhang et al. relate to novel chiral ligands derived from P-chiral phospholanes and P-chiral phosphocyclic compounds and catalysts for applications in asymmetric catalysis. More particularly, Zhang et al. relates to transition metal complexes of these chiral phosphine ligands, which are useful as catalysts in asymmetric reactions, such as, hydrogenation, hydride transfer, hydrocarboxylation, hydrosilylation, hydroboration, hydrovinylation, hydroformylation, allylic alkylation, olefin metathesis, isomerization, cyclopropanation, Diels-Alder reaction, Heck reaction, Aldol reaction, Michael addition, epoxidation, kinetic resolution and [m + n] cycloaddition (see col. 1, lines 17-28).

Zhang et al. disclose several procedures to prepare the chiral ligands that are described on column 24, line 45 - column 27, line 45.

Application No.: 10/564,985
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Zhang et al. do not disclose that the step of reacting the primary phosphine represented by formula (1) with the compound represented by formula (2) includes using 1,3-dichloropropane as the compound represented by formula (2) as claimed in independent claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Zhang et al. do not teach or suggest the specific reaction as claimed in claim 1, since the step of producing the four-membered phosphetanes is not disclosed.

For these reasons, it is believed that Zhang et al. do not show or suggest the present claimed features of the present invention. Applicants also submit that Ohashi et al. do not make up for the deficiencies in Zhang et al.

Ohashi et al. relate to synthesis of 1-adamantylphosphine and its use in the synthesis of cyclic phosphines containing 1-adamantyl group.

Ohashi et al. disclose that 1-adamantylphosphine (1) was easily synthesized by treating 1-adamantylmagnesium bromide with PCl_3 , followed by reduction with LiAlH_4 . Several new cyclic trialkylphosphines bearing a 1-adamantyl group were prepared from compound 1. Thus, treating 1 with BuLi and $\text{TsOCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CH}_2\text{OTs}$ ($n = 1, 2$), followed by BuLi and $\text{BH}_3\text{-THF}$ gave 27 - 39% of the

Application No.: 10/564,985
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
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March 26, 2008

corresponding 1-adamantyl-substituted phosphetane-borane or phospholane-borane (see abstract).

Ohashi et al. do not disclose that the step of reacting the primary phosphine represented by formula (1) with the compound represented by formula (2) includes using 1,3-dichloropropane as the compound represented by formula (2) as claimed in independent claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that even though Ohashi et al. disclose a process of producing a four-membered phosphetane, Ohashi et al. discloses the use of $\text{TsOCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CH}_2\text{OTs}$. In this case, the use of $\text{TsOCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CH}_2\text{OTs}$ ($n = 1$) in Ohashi et al. leads to a yield of only 27 - 39%. On the other hand, 1,3-dichloropropane is used in the present invention and it is possible to obtain a yield of 48 - 59% (see page 44-46, and Examples 1 and 2 of the specification).

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Zhang et al. and Ohashi et al. do not teach, suggest or disclose the advantageous effect of using 1,3-dichloropropane as claimed in claim 1.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Zhang et al. and Ohashi et al., individually or in combination, do not teach, disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention and it would

Application No.: 10/564,985
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Reply to Office Action dated December 28, 2007
March 26, 2008


not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine these references to render the present claims obvious.

In view of the foregoing claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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